

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: THE FACTS

IN THE UNITED STATES

- ◆ In 2000, 1,247 women were killed by an intimate partner - more than three every day. Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief, Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2001, February 2003.
- ◆ Approximately three million women are physically abused by their husband or boyfriend per year. The Commonwealth Fund, Health Concerns Across a Woman's Lifespan: 1998 Survey of Women's Health, May 1999.
- ◆ Every 15 seconds a woman is beaten by her husband or boyfriend. (*FBI Uniform Crime Reports, 1991*)
- ◆ UCR Program's 1996 Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) showed that 30 percent of all female victims of murder or non-negligent manslaughter in the U.S. were killed by their husbands, ex-husbands, or boyfriends. Crime in the United States. (1996). U.S. Department of Justice, FBI.
- ◆ Ninety-two percent of homeless women have experienced severe physical and/or sexual assault at some point in their lives. Browne, A. 1998. "Responding to the Needs of Low Income and Homeless Women Who are Survivors of Family Violence." Journal of American Medical Women's Association. 53(2): 57-64.
- ◆ In a 1998 study, 22 percent of 777 individuals surveyed stated that they had fled their home because of domestic violence. Ten Cities 1997-1998: A Snapshot of Family Homelessness Across America. Homes for the Homeless. Retrieved January 9, 2004. <http://www.homesforthehomeless.com>.
- ◆ In a 2002 report by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, 44 percent of the cities surveyed identified domestic violence as the primary cause of homelessness. The United States Conference of Mayors. 1999. A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities, p.39.
- ◆ Victims and survivors of domestic violence have trouble finding apartments because they may have poor credit, rental, and employment histories as a result of their abuse. Susan A. Reif and Lisa J. Krisher. 2000. "Subsidized Housing and the Unique Needs of Domestic Violence Victim." Clearing House Review. National Center on Poverty Law. Chicago, IL.

IN NEW JERSEY IN 2004

- ◆ Police reported 76,109 cases of domestic violence, a 2 percent decrease compared to 77,567 reported in 2003.
- ◆ Murders decreased 23 percent in 2004 (44) when compared to 2003 (57).
- ◆ Assaults accounted for 44 percent (33,712) and harassment accounted for 41 percent (31,333) of the reported offenses in 2004.
- ◆ Arrests were made in 32 percent (24,014) of the offenses reported for 2004, the same percentage when compared to arrest made in 2003.
- ◆ Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 29 percent (22,055) of the reported offenses occurring in 2004. Drugs or alcohol were involved in 30 percent (13) of domestic violence homicides. Twenty-nine percent (22,055) of the reported acts of domestic violence (76,109) involved the use of drugs or alcohol.
- ◆ The most frequent day of domestic violence occurrences was Sunday (13,515); and for the twenty-second consecutive year, the most frequent hours of abuse were between 8:00 p.m. and midnight when 27 percent (20,823) of the offenses were reported.
- ◆ Domestic violence does not occur at a regular frequency, but when viewed as a ratio of its occurrence to a fixed time interval, one act of domestic violence would occur every 6 minutes and 54 seconds.
- ◆ Of all the domestic violence offenses involving weapons (35,663), hands, fists, feet, etc were used in 91 percent (32,467) of these offenses.
- ◆ Twenty-seven percent (20,846) of all domestic violence complaints resulted in injury, a 4 percent decrease compared to 21,846 that occurred in 2003.
- ◆ Serious injuries were reported in 1,444 offenses, an 8 percent decrease when compared to the 1,563 reported in 2003.
- ◆ Domestic violence offenses involving a gun decreased 10 percent when compared to 2003.
- ◆ Domestic violence offenses arising from a dating relationship accounted for 14 percent (10,786) of the state total.
- ◆ There were 3,527 total arrests involving domestic violence restraining orders reported by police in 2004. Of these, 1,956 were arrests for violations of a restraining order only, while 1,157 were arrests for violations of a restraining order with an offense arrest.
- ◆ The number of domestic violence complaints that had prior court orders issued against the offender decreased from 17,103 in 2003 to 16,188 in 2004. This is a decrease of 5 percent.
- ◆ Wives were the victims in 21 percent (16,309) and ex-wives in 3 percent (2,460) of the reported domestic violence offenses in 2004. Overall, females were victims in 77 percent (58,444) of all domestic violence offenses.
- ◆ Persons age 60 or over were victims in 3 percent (2,344) of all reported domestic violence offenses that occurred in 2004. Elderly were the victims in 20 percent (9) of the domestic violence murders (44).

All NJ statistics are from the 22nd Annual Domestic Violence Offense Report, 2004, State of New Jersey, Department of Law & Public Safety, Division of State Police, Uniform Crime Reporting Unit

CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- ◆ Children in NJ were present (35%) of all domestic violence offenses occurring in 2004. Specifically, 5 percent (4,102) were involved and 30 percent (22,844) were present. (FBIUCR, 2004)
- ◆ Teens aged 16 to 24 are particularly vulnerable and experience the highest per capita rate of intimate partner violence. U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics. Washington, DC. Retrieved January 9, 2004.
- ◆ Fifty percent of men who frequently assault their wives frequently assault their children, (xx) and the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect suggests that domestic violence may be the single major precursor to child abuse and neglect fatalities in this country. xxi A Nation's Shame: Fatal Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States: Fifth Report. 1995.
- ◆ At least 3.3 million children in the United States between the ages of 3 and 17 are at risk of exposure to parental violence (Peter G. Jaffe, David A. Wolfe and Susan Kaye Wilson, Children of Battered Women, Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, 1990, p.21)
- ◆ As many as 24% of female teens experience violence on at least one occasion. (Source: Violence Update, August 1993, Vol. 3, #12)
- ◆ Approximately one in five female high school students reports being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner. Pregnancy, and Suicidality," Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 286, No. 5, 2001.
- ◆ Children who witness domestic violence are more likely to exhibit behavioral and physical health problems including depression, anxiety, and violence towards peers. 4 They are also more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, engage in teenage prostitution, and commit sexual assault crimes. . New York: Sage Publications. 1995.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



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Division on Women

(609) 292-8840

TTY (609) 777-0799

www.nj.gov/dca/dow

The New Jersey Prevention of Domestic Violence Act:

- ◆ Provides victims of domestic violence with a range of actions and legal remedies
- ◆ Is designed to protect victims and their children from abusive and/or violent behavior by someone they know intimately
- ◆ Provides an opportunity to file a civil or criminal complaint or both
- ◆ States that TROs (Temporary Restraining Orders) remain in effect until further action is taken by the court
- ◆ Can, through a TRO, forbid defendants to possess a firearm or other weapon
- ◆ States that in awarding temporary custody, "the court shall presume that the best interests of the child are served by an award of custody to the non-abusive parent"
- ◆ Provides that a victim can request a risk assessment if they believe a child will be harmed during visitation (and postpone a decision on visitation)
- ◆ Requires mandatory arrest provisions of an alleged abuser by the police if a victim exhibits signs of injury *or* exhibits physical pain *or* other impairments of their physical condition, *or* a weapon was involved, *or* if there is a restraining order in effect
- ◆ Includes criminal trespass, terrorist threats, stalking, homicide, assault, kidnapping, criminal restraints, false imprisonment, sexual assault, criminal sexual contact, lewdness, criminal mischief, burglary and harassment as crimes that constitute domestic violence

**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS BEING ABUSED,
BREAK THE CYCLE & END THE SILENCE!**

**Make a confidential call for help
to the domestic violence program in your county:**

Atlantic	800-286-4184 or 609-646-6767
Bergen	
Shelter Our Sisters	(201) 944-9600
Alternatives to Domestic Violence	(201) 336-7575
Burlington	(609) 871-7551
Camden	(856) 227-1234
Cape May	877-294-CARA or (609) 522-6489
Cumberland	800-286-4353 or (856) 293-9733
Essex	
Babyland Family Violence Program	(973) 484-4447 or (973) 484-4446
The Safe House	(973) 759-2154
Rachel Coalition of Jewish Family Services	(973) 740-1233
Gloucester	866-423-8723 or (856) 881-3335
Hudson	(201) 333-5700
Hunterdon	888-988-4033 or (908) 788-4044
Mercer	800-572-SAFE or (609) 394-9000
Middlesex	(732) 249-4504
Monmouth	888-843-9262 or (732) 264-4111
Morris	(973) 267-4763
Ocean	800-246-8910 or (732) 244-8259
Passaic	
Passaic County Women's Center	(973) 881-1450
Project S.A.R.A.H.	800-757-9470
Salem	888-632-9511 or (856) 935-6655
Somerset	866-685-1122 or (908) 685-1122
Sussex	(973) 875-1211
Union	(908) 355-4357
Warren	866-6BE-SAFE or (908) 475-8408

STATEWIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE
1-800-572-SAFE (7233)
(Bilingual and TTY accessible)
HELP IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY!

New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women
609-584-8107
TTY 609-584-0027

Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women
(609) 292-8840; TTY (609) 777-0799; www.nj.gov/dca/dow